The claims defining the invention are as follows:

1.   A method for converting a communication in a first communication protocol to a second protocol,

-       the first protocol including information and signalling,
-       the method including:
            converting the information into a digital stream, and
            incorporating the signalling in the digital stream using bit-robbing.

2.   A method as claimed in claim 1 wherein the signalling is carried on a signalling channel, different channel from the information channel carrying information.

3.   A method as claimed in claim 1 or 2 wherein the information is in the voice band channel and the signalling is an out-of-band channel.

4.   A method as claimed in claim 1 or claim 1, wherein the information is in the form of analog signals and the signalling is in the form of digital signal.

5.   An arrangement for converting a communication in a first protocol to a second protocol,

-       the communication including information and signalling,
-       the arrangement including a splitter arrangement separating the information onto a first information path, and the signalling onto a first signalling path, and

-       a multiplexer arrangement applying the information to a digital stream and incorporating the signalling into the digital stream by bit-robbing.

6.   An arrangement as claimed in claim 5 including a network response emulator responsive to the signalling to send an appropriate response.

7.   An arrangement as claimed in claim 6, wherein the emulator is on the downstream side of the multiplexer arrangement.

8.   An arrangement as claimed in any one of claim 5 to 7, wherein the multiplexer arrangement includes a multiplexer circuit, the buffer storing the signalling data prior to multiplexing.

9.   An arrangement as claimed in any one of claims 5 to 8 including a controller controlling the multiplexer arrangement.

10.   An arrangement for converting at least first and second signals to a common protocol, the first signal having a first protocol different from the common protocol,

the arrangement including a multiplexer the second signal into a bit stream and incorporating the first signal into the bit stream carrying the second signal by bit robbing.

11. An arrangement as claimed in claim 10, wherein the second signal has a second protocol different from the common protocol and different from the first protocol, the arrangement including a second converter to convert the second signal to the common protocol.

12. An arrangement for converting signals as claimed in claim 9 or claim 10,
- including a network response emulator which emulates network responses to at least one of the signals.

13 A method of converting at least first and second signals to a common protocol, the first signal having a protocol different from the common protocol, the method including,
- multiplexing the second signal into a bit stream and
- incorporating the first signal into the bit stream carrying the second signal by bit-robbing.

14. A method of converting signals substantially as herein described with reference to the accompanying drawings.

15. An arrangement for converting signals substantially as herein described with reference to the accompanying drawings.

16. A service agile communication arrangement to make available a plurality of services to a customer's premises, the arrangement including:
- at the network access side of the customer's line, a network line interface adapted to transmit and receive information and signalling according to a chosen communication protocol;
- at the customer premises side of the line, a customer line interface adapted to transmit and receive information and signalling according to the chosen communication protocol;
- the customer line interface including means to convert between the information and signalling protocol of the service and the chosen communication protocol.

17.   An arrangement as claimed in claim 16 wherein the network lines interface converts between the chosen protocol and a network protocol for communication with the network.

18.   An arrangement as claimed 16 or claim 17 wherein the chosen protocol is the IDSL protocol (2B1Q).

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ALCATEL